

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. RED SEA MANEUVERING

A. BRINGING SOMALIA ALONG

THE SUDANESE AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO TOLD CHARGE JACOBS
MARCH 31 THAT PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S DECISION TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE TAIZ MEETING HAD BEEN A "MILESTONE" IN EFFORTS
BY MODERATE ARAB STATES TO WEAN THE SOMALIS AWAY FROM THE
SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE
SAUD WOULD SOON VISIT MOGADISCIO, OSTENSIBLY TO DEDICATE A
SAUDI-BUILT MOSQUE BUT IN FACT TO PURSUE NIMEIRI'S OPENING
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GAMBIT WITH SIAD BY OFFERING SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AID.
THE AMBASSADOR URGED THE US TO ACT IN SUPPORT OF THE MOD-
ERATE ARAB DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST
EXPECTATIONS OF OVERNIGHT CHANGES IN THE SOMALI ATTITUDE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: PRINCE SAUD'S VISIT, IF IT DOES COME OFF,
COULD BE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN SOMALIA'S MOVEMENT AWAY FROM

THE SOVIETS. WE DOUBT THAT EITHER SIDE WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A VISIT UNLESS BOTH HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO MOVE TOGETHER IN

A CONCRETE WAY, AND WE AGREE WITH THE SUDANESE THAT SOMALIA IS MOVING STRONGLY IN A DIRECTION FAVORABLE TO US INTERESTS. WE SHOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATION TO BE RAISED AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOGADISCIO 550, 3/31.)

B. A NUDGE FROM CAIRO

FOREIGN MINISTRY AFRICAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AHMAD SIDQI, MEETING WITH EMBASSY CAIRO OFFICERS MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THE HORN, URGED THE US TO ACT ON THE REQUEST HE UNDERSTOOD SOMALIA HAD MADE IN WASHINGTON FOR US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID. SIDQI SAID SIAD WISHED TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE, BUT SOMALIA WAS NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP THE SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT ASSURANCE THAT AT LEAST AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE US AND ITS FRIENDS. HE ADDED THAT US TIMIDITY AND CAUTION IN THE FACE OF A GROWING CUBAN/SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN AFRICA, APPARENTLY THE RESULT OF A CONTINUING "ANGOLA COMPLEX," WERE LEADING MANY AFRICANS TO CONCLUDE THAT THE US PLANNED TO PLAY ONLY A PASSIVE ROLE IN AFRICA. (SECRET) CAIRO 5433 (EXDIS), 3/30.)

2. PAKISTAN: WAR OF ATTRITION

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD REPORTS THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO
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AND THE OPPOSITION PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) NOW APPEAR TO BE DIGGING IN FOR A PROLONGED CONFRONTATION WHOSE ULTIMATE OUTCOME STILL CANNOT BE PREDICTED. BHUTTO SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED A STRATEGY OF WEARING DOWN THE PROTEST MOVEMENT OVER TIME WITH A CARROT-AND-STICK APPROACH IN WHICH HE:

--CONTINUES TO JAIL OPPOSITION LEADERS, MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON THE KEY ISSUE OF THEIR DEMAND FOR NEW ELECTIONS; BUT

--OFFERS VARIOUS INDUCEMENTS, INCLUDING MORE SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE LIFTING OF THE EMERGENCY, IF THEY WILL DROP THEIR DEMAND.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES NEITHER SIDE IS WILLING TO COMPROMISE, AND REPORTS THAT THE OPPOSITION MUST NOW CHOOSE BETWEEN:

--CONTINUING ITS PROGRAM OF LOW-LEVEL CIVIL DIS-

OBEDIENCE, HOPING THAT CIVIL UNREST WILL GROW AND
BHUTTO WILL BE FORCED OUT OF POWER; AND

--ESCALATING THE CONFRONTATION, INCREASING THE LEVEL
OF VIOLENCE AND SEEKING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. (CON-
FIDENTIAL) ISLAMABAD 3038, 3/30.)

3. GUATEMALA BRISTLES AT US REPORT ON BELIZE

THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT REACTED SHARPLY YESTERDAY TO A
WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNA-
TIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WAS
PREPARED IN NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR TO ACCEPT AN INDEPEN-
DENT BELIZE. THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS OFFICE ISSUED A STATE-
MENT CATEGORICALLY REJECTING THE ALLEGATION, AND FOREIGN
MINISTER OBIOLS REITERATED THAT GUATEMALA WILL NOT RECOG-
NIZE OR TOLERATE THE UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE.

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HE ADDED, "GUATEMALAN RIGHTS TO BELIZE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO
DISCUSSION BY THE US CONGRESS." THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ASKED
OUR EMBASSY TO CONFIRM THE REPORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IF THE REPORT IS ACCURATE, WE WILL HAVE
TO CONFIRM TO THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT THAT A USG REPRE-
SENTATIVE REVEALED A SECRET GUATEMALAN NEGOTIATING POSI-
TION TO CONGRESS. THIS EPISODE WILL OBVIOUSLY STRENGTHEN
THE HAND OF HARDLINERS WITHIN THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY AND
RESTRICT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S FREEDOM TO MANEUVER. (CON-
FIDENTIAL) GUATEMALA 2005, 3/31.)
CHRISTOPHER

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